

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-3 and 5-21 will be pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 21 have been amended, and claim 4 has been cancelled.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 8, 17, 2, 3, 7, 13, 16, 18, 19, 21 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reber (U.S. Patent 5,113,356). The Examiner objected to claims 4-6, 9-12, 14 and 16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In response, the Applicants hereby submit the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, and respectfully submit that the remaining pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 4, which has been cancelled. Accordingly, Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3 and 5-7 are also in condition for allowance as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

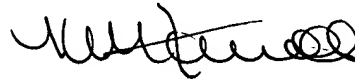
The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claim 8. As presented, Claim 8 recites in part the step of "flowing an electrolytic fluid through said first and second gaps". Reber does not disclose the use of an electrolytic fluid, and therefore Reber does not anticipate the Claim 8. As such, the Applicants hereby submit that Claim 8 is in condition for allowance. Claims 9-16 depend upon Claim 8, and the Applicants therefore request their allowance as well.

Claim 17 has been amended such that it now recites in part "an acoustic couplant between said first ultrasonic transducer and said first tool". Reber does not disclose an acoustic couplant, and therefore Reber does not anticipate the amended Claim 17. On the contrary, the addition of an acoustic couplant is antithetical to the invention disclosed in Reber, as it is designed around a running web. Clearly, the introduction of an acoustic couplant would inhibit the movement of the web, and therefore Reber is not consistent with the scope of amended Claim 17. As such, the Applicants hereby submit that amended Claim 17 is in condition for allowance. Claims 18-21 depend upon Claim 17, and the Applicants therefore request their allowance as well.

Summary

Given the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants hereby request consideration of the subject patent application. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 500282.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin M. Farrell
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 35,505
(603) 433-6300

Portsmouth, NH

Date:

12/10/04

P0067293.DOC